

Appln. No. 10/040,339

Amendment dated September 16, 2003

Reply to Office Action mailed March 18, 2003

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11-24, 32-35, 37-40, 43-46, and 51-53 remain in this application. Claims 9-10, 25-31, 36, 41-42, and 47-50 have been cancelled.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

#### **Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action**

The drawings have been objected to.

Submitted under separate cover and addressed to the Examiner is applicant's proposed amendment of the drawing. Specifically, in Figure 1 of the drawings as originally filed, additions of reference designators 41, 50, and 61, as well as their associated lead lines have been made in red ink.

In light of the proposed drawing amendment, it is therefore submitted that the objection to the drawings as originally filed has been overcome, and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

#### **Paragraph 5 of the Office Action**

The specification has been objected to for the informalities noted in the Office Action.

The specification has been amended in a manner believed to clarify any informalities in the language, particularly at the points identified in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

#### **Paragraph 6 of the Office Action**

Claims 1-36 and 46 have been objected to for the informalities noted in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 5, 24 and 46 have been amended in a manner believed to clarify any informalities in the language.

Appln. No. 10/040,339

Amendment dated September 16, 2003

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Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-36 and 46 is therefore respectfully requested.

**Paragraph 7 of the Office Action**

Claims 25-31, 36 and 47-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph) as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention.

Claims 25-31, 36, and 47-50 have been canceled. Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is mute.

Withdrawal of the §112 (first paragraph) rejection of claims 25-31, 36 and 47-50 is respectfully requested.

**Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Office Action**

Claims 1-6, 11, 14, 37-40, 44, 45, 51 and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Henderson et al. (5,944,764).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, incorporates the as filled limitations of claim 10, including the as-filed limitations of claim 9. Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 2-6, 11, 14 are dependent upon claim 1, and as such are also believed to be allowable. Similarly, claim 37 as amended incorporates the as-filed limitations of claim 43. Claim 37, particularly as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 38-40, 51 and 52 are dependent upon claim 37 and as such are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is mute.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-6, 11, 14, 37-40, 44, 45, 51 and 52 is therefore respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 10/040,339

Amendment dated September 16, 2003

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**Paragraph 10 of the Office Action**

Claims 1-6, 11, 14, 37-40, 44, 51 and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Henderson et al. (6,114,993).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, incorporates the as filled limitations of claim 10, including the as-filed limitations of claim 9. Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 2-6, 11, 14 are dependent upon claim 1, and as such are also believed to be allowable. Similarly, claim 37 as amended incorporates the as-filed limitations of claim 43. Claim 37, particularly as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 38-40, 51 and 52 are dependent upon claim 37 and as such are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is mute.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-6, 11, 14, 37-40, 44, 51 and 52 is therefore respectfully requested.

**Paragraph 11 of the Office Action**

Claims 1-6, 11, 14, 37-40, 51 and 52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gudat et al. (5,646,844).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, incorporates the as filled limitations of claim 10, including the as-filed limitations of claim 9. Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 2-6, 11, 14 are dependent upon claim 1, and as such are also believed to be allowable. Similarly, claim 37 as amended incorporates the as-filed limitations of claim 43. Claim 37, particularly as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 38-40, 51 and 52 are dependent upon claim 37 and as such are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is mute.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-6, 11, 14, 37-40, 51 and 52 is therefore respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 10/040,339  
Amendment dated September 16, 2003  
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**Paragraph 12 of the Office Action**

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hagenbuch (4,831,539).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, incorporates the as filled limitations of claim 10, including the as-filed limitations of claim 9. Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 2 is dependent upon claim 1, and as such is also believed to be allowable.

Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is mute.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 2 is therefore respectfully requested.

**Paragraph 13 of the Office Action**

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wright et al. (6,084,542).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, incorporates the as filled limitations of claim 10, including the as-filed limitations of claim 9. Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

**Paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Office Action**

Claims 7-9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 41 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson et al. (5,944,764) in view of Wright et al. (6,084,542).

Claim 1, particularly as amended, incorporates the as filled limitations of claim 10, including the as-filed limitations of claim 9. Claim 1, as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 7-9, 12-13, and 15-16 are dependent upon claim 1,

Appln. No. 10/040,339

Amendment dated September 16, 2003

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and as such are also believed to be allowable. Similarly, claim 37 as amended incorporates the as-filed limitations of claim 42, including the as-filled limitations of claim 41. Claim 37, particularly as amended is believed to be allowable in accordance with paragraph 16 of the office action. Claims 43 is dependent upon claim 37 and as such are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is mute.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 7-9, 12, 13, 15, 15, 41 and 43 is therefore respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 10/040,339

Amendment dated September 16, 2003

Reply to Office Action mailed March 18, 2003

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KAARDAL & ASSOCIATES, PC

By  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 9/18/03

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